Prof. Lawrence Henderson, has to say on this : ' Sooner or later, when the problem of organic regulation [the regulation of respiration, of temperature, etc.] is studied, we come upon the fact that a certain organ or group of cells accomplishes that which is requisite to the preservation of equilibrium, varying the internal conditions, in a manner which we can on no account at present explain. The same difficulty is encountered in the analysis of every other organic regulation of whatever sort. There is no physiological phenomenon of regulation, the autonomy of which we can to-day understand' *(The Order of Nature).*

The maintenance and restoration of equilibrium by organisms are aspects of their activity on which almost all biologists insist. It may be said that the most distinctive peculiarity of living things is their marvellous combination of stability with lability, the combination of extreme stability (or perpetual restoration of the *status quo)* with the perpetual change of never-ceasing metabolism, the breaking-down and rebuilding of the chemically complex matter of their bodies. It is a peculiarity which they cease to manifest as soon as they cease to live; at death instability forthwith dominates the scene. And * maintenance of equilibrium ' is the expression commonly used to denote this marvellous and hitherto entirely inexplicable combination of stability with great lability.

Even Hogben recognizes this maintenance of equilibrium as a striking peculiarity. And how does he

profess to reconcile it with the mechanical theory As follows : the dynamical equilibrium of atoms and molecules in general with their environment is, he says truly enough, implied in their persistence, their stability. And he adds, with reference to any typical organism, [c] that a system of such